

Application No. 09/581,235
Supplemental Amendment

Remarks

Favorable consideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 23, 26-28, 30-32, and 34-37 are currently pending in the application; independent Claim 23 having been presently amended.

Applicants express thanks for Examiner Manoharan's indication, during a telephone call on March 11, 2004, that the above amendment to independent Claim 23 would place the application in condition for allowance. In accordance with the Examiner's further instructions during a telephone call on March 12, 2004, Applicants respectfully submit herewith the amendment to independent Claim 23 in this Supplemental Amendment. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of Claims 23, 26-28, 30-32, and 34-37.

Applicants further respectfully submit herewith, in response to Examiner Manoharan's request made during the telephone calls, copies of the Amendment and Terminal Disclaimer filed on October 27, 2003, as well as the date stamped filing receipt evidencing the filing, the Office Action mailed on June 25, 2003, and the drawing figures.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 23, 26-28, 30-32, and 34-37 is earnestly solicited.

Application No. 09/581,235
Supplemental Amendment

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

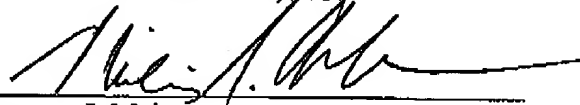
Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Attorney of Record

Philip J. Hoffmann
Registration No. 46,340

GJM/PH/me

I:\ATTY\PH\198\193390\AM 031504.DOC